THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations for entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in India. According to information furnished by the AICTE, four institutions have been registered by them for providing technical education in India in collaboration with foreign universities/institutions.

A legislative proposal for entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is presently under consideration.

Madarsas and Makhtabs in Andhra Pradesh

650. SHRIMATI N.P. DUGRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of madarsas and makhtabs in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that madarsas and makhtabs in that State are covered under SSA;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided to them during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise;

(d) whether any special emphasis is given to muslim girls studying in the above madarsas and makhtabs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Information on the number of madarsas and makhtabs in States is not maintained centrally. Assistance is provided to madarsas and makhtabs which enrol children not attending formal schools and in the age group of 6—14 years to study the State curriculam. In Andhra Pradesh, 526 madarsas are being assisted presently, covering 25,112 boys and 16,291 girls. In addition, 1122 Vidya Volunteers are engaged in teaching English, Mathematics and Science in these madarsas. Free textbooks and mid-day meals are being provided to these children. In the blocks covered under the National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), skill training is also being imparted to girls.

Quality in higher education

651. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an autonomous body called the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), was set up in 1994 to ensure that quality becomes the defining element of higher education;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till March, 2007, the NAAC had accredited only 3,492 colleges and 140 universities, out of 17,625 colleges and 317 universities in the country;

(c) whether nearly 75 per cent of colleges and 56 per cent of univesities have never been assessed for quality standards; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC)